

Altenmüller's 'Singen - die Ursprache?' has once more revived the old 'chicken or egg: which came first' debate. With early man the anatomy and physiology of their sound producing organs, their accessories and their classification as either instruments or implements in respect of the function of the one or of the other as having the fundamental purpose of producing either speech or song is axiomatic should one assume that the sounds first emitted could at all be qualified either as speech or as song. But in fact it was grunt which came first - neither speech nor song. Then it was at a much later period when larynxes, sinuses and other sound appendages developed in relation to the intellectual psychogenetic demands of an improved thinking man that grunt organized itself into palaeo-linguistic/melodic systems or patterns and that as a consequence *Ur*-speech could segregate itself from *Ur*-song, or inversely. It is from that period that Professor Dr. Altenmüller's researches in neuro-anatomic/physiologic brain activity during singing and speaking sequences becomes of specific interest to musicology. His findings are particularly enlightening in his Fig. 2 where tomographic scans show different sectors of responsiveness according to stimuli of either singing or speech activities on a given subject and in given circumstances. Altenmüller's work is just the beginning of a new approach of a science which will certainly shake the basis of comfortable assumptions in the field of the anatomy, physiology and psychology in the development of the human mechanisms for the purpose of sound emission and of the nature of abilities to perceive sound. RD